



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7138

January Session, 2017

* _____HB07138TRA_____032017_____*

**AN ACT CONCERNING LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OF MAJOR
TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND PLANNING.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2017*) As used in this section
2 and sections 2 to 4, inclusive, of this act:

3 (1) "Transportation project" means any planning, capital or
4 operating project with regard to transportation undertaken by the state
5 on and after July 1, 2018, that requires any authorization of bonds,
6 appropriation, allocation or allotment of moneys by the state, but shall
7 not include (A) any project funded by the state where the estimated
8 cost of such project is less than the threshold limit to qualify for the
9 loan program established by the Transportation Infrastructure Finance
10 and Innovation Act of 1998, (B) any project funded in part with money
11 from the federal government or a federal agency where the estimated
12 total cost of such project to the state is less than twenty per cent of the
13 threshold limit to qualify for such loan program, or (C) any repair,
14 improvement, alteration or replacement of roads, bridges and rail
15 which, in the opinion of the Commissioner of Transportation,
16 constitutes a threat to public safety; and

17 (2) "Council" means the Transportation Council established
18 pursuant to section 2 of this act.

19 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2017*) (a) There is established a
20 Transportation Council, which shall be part of the Executive
21 Department.

22 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

23 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

24 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

25 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
26 Representatives;

27 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

28 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
29 Representatives;

30 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

31 (7) The Commissioner of Transportation;

32 (8) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development;

33 (9) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection;

34 (10) The Commissioner of Housing; and

35 (11) The Comptroller.

36 (c) Any member of the council appointed under subdivision (1), (2),
37 (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of
38 the General Assembly.

39 (d) All initial appointments to the council shall be made not later
40 than December 1, 2017. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing
41 authority.

42 (e) The Commissioner of Transportation shall serve as the

43 chairperson of the council. The chairperson shall schedule the first
44 meeting of the council, which shall be held not later than February 1,
45 2018.

46 (f) The council shall be within the Department of Transportation for
47 administrative purposes only.

48 (g) The terms of the appointed members of the council shall be
49 coterminous with the terms of the appointing authority for each
50 member and subject to the provisions of section 4-1a of the general
51 statutes. Any vacancy on the council shall be filled by the appointing
52 authority.

53 (h) A majority of the council shall constitute a quorum for the
54 transaction of any business.

55 (i) The members of the council shall serve without compensation,
56 but shall, within the limits of available funds, be reimbursed for
57 expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

58 (j) The council shall have the following powers and duties:

59 (1) To develop and revise biennially a comprehensive four year
60 transportation plan for the state. Such plan shall include specific
61 transportation projects and be designed to fulfill the present and future
62 needs of the state and assure the development and maintenance of an
63 adequate, safe and efficient transportation system. Such council shall
64 give particular consideration to promoting economic development and
65 transit-oriented development. In developing and revising such plan,
66 the council shall hold at least one public hearing. Such plan and any
67 revisions to such plan shall become effective when approved by a
68 majority of the council;

69 (2) To obtain from any executive department, board, commission or
70 other agency of the state such assistance and data as necessary and
71 available to carry out the purposes of this section; and

72 (3) To perform such other acts as may be necessary and appropriate
73 to carry out the duties described in this section.

74 (k) The council shall meet at least six times per year and at such
75 other times as the chairperson or a majority of the council deem
76 necessary. Any appointed member who fails to attend three
77 consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all
78 meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have
79 resigned from the council.

80 (l) The council may establish no more than two advisory committees
81 at any one time to advise the council in carrying out its duties. Such
82 advisory committee shall be composed of transportation professionals,
83 advocates and other interested stakeholders, and shall terminate
84 within sixty days of its commencement. The council may request
85 opinions from such advisory committee regarding any transportation
86 project.

87 (m) The council may enter into contractual agreements as may be
88 necessary for the discharge of its duties, within the limits of its
89 appropriated funds and in accordance with established procedures.

90 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2017*) (a) The joint standing
91 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
92 relating to finance, revenue and bonding may not propose legislation
93 to implement or fund transportation projects, unless such
94 transportation projects are included in the plan approved by the
95 council pursuant to section 2 of this act.

96 (b) The General Assembly may not authorize bonds of the state or
97 appropriate funds for transportation projects, unless such
98 transportation projects are included in the plan approved by the
99 council pursuant to section 2 of this act.

100 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 4-9a of the general statutes is
101 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
102 *October 1, 2017*):

103 (a) The Governor shall appoint the chairperson and executive
104 director, if any, of all boards and commissions within the Executive
105 Department, except the State Properties Review Board, the State
106 Elections Enforcement Commission, the Commission on Human
107 Rights and Opportunities, the Commission on Fire Prevention and
108 Control, [and] the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board and the
109 Transportation Council.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2017	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2017	New section
Sec. 3	October 1, 2017	New section
Sec. 4	October 1, 2017	4-9a(a)

Section 1	October 1, 2017	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2017	New section
Sec. 3	October 1, 2017	New section
Sec. 4	October 1, 2017	4-9a(a)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(e), "2017" was changed to "2018" for accuracy.

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.*